



servemontana symposium 2014
THE POWER OF HUMAN ACTION

Speaker Bios

KEYNOTE: The Power of Human Action, *Dr. Paul Gordon Lauren, University of Montana Regents Professor*

Paul Gordon Lauren is an internationally-recognized teacher and scholar of diplomacy, world politics, and human rights. He is the first person to ever be named as a Regents Professor at The University of Montana where he also served as the Founding Director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center and as the Mansfield Professor of Ethics and Public Affairs. He earned his Ph.D. from Stanford University where he also has served on the faculty on three separate occasions. At The University of Montana he has received the Distinguished Scholar Award, the Most Inspirational Teacher Award, the Montana Professor of the Year Award by the Carnegie Foundation, the Governor's Humanities Award and more. He has published many articles, chapters, and fifteen books, including the widely-read classic of Force and Statecraft, the highly acclaimed The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and the award-winning Power and Prejudice. Professor Lauren has delivered invited addresses at The Smithsonian Institution, the Nobel Peace Institute, and before the United Nations where he has been described as the world's leading authority on the history of international human rights.

Professor Lauren was heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States when he lived and worked in Harlem of New York City and personally met Martin Luther King, Jr. His work in the area of human rights has taken him behind the Iron Curtain during the tense days of the Cold War, enabled him to observe part of the war crimes trials of Slobodan Milosevic at The Hague, and taken him to places when the dangers and sensitivity of the subject required that he be accompanied by armed bodyguards.

OPENING PLENARY: The Power to Achieve Justice, *Justice Beth Baker, Montana Supreme Court Justice*

Justice Baker was raised in Spokane, Washington, and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Washington in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication. In 1985, she graduated with high honors from the University of Montana School of Law. Following graduation from law school, Justice Baker served four years as a law clerk for the Hon. Charles C. Lovell, U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana. From 1989 through 2000, she worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the Montana Department of Justice, including four years as Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General and four years as Chief Deputy Attorney General. Justice Baker spent the next ten years in the private practice of law with the firm of Hughes, Kellner, Sullivan and Alke. Justice Baker served ten years on the State Bar of Montana's Access to Justice Committee and currently serves as an ex officio director of the Montana Justice Foundation. Justice Baker now serves as the Montana Supreme Court's representative on the Court's Access to Justice Commission. Justice Baker was elected to the Montana Supreme Court on November 2, 2010, and was sworn into office January 3, 2011, to fill the position of retiring Justice W. William Leaphart.

MORNING PLENARY: Dr. Waded Cruzado, Montana State University President

Since January of 2010, Dr. Waded Cruzado has served as the 12th President of Montana State University, an institution recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as one of 108 universities for its "Very High Research Activity" and one of 54 institutions recognized by Carnegie as a "Community Engaged University." As President of MSU, President Cruzado has significantly reshaped the face and future of the state's first land-grant institution. An articulate and inspirational speaker on the role of land-grant universities, she has become a well-known champion of the land-grant's tripartite mission of education, research and public outreach. Under President Cruzado's leadership, MSU established the new Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, thanks to a \$25 million donation, the largest gift in the history of the Montana University System. Concurrently, scientific research expenditures reached a record-breaking level at more than \$300 million and MSU has set new enrollment records, registering an 18 percent increase, all within the first three years of her presidency. President Cruzado has been honored as the 2011 Michael P. Malone Educator of the Year by the Montana Ambassadors for outstanding accomplishment, excellence and leadership in the field of education. In 2012, The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities awarded President Cruzado the Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lectureship, in honor of the founder of the Cooperative Extension Service. President Cruzado has also been recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Cruzado to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), a presidentially-appointed seven member advisory council to USAID, whose primary role is to advise on agriculture, rural development and nutrition issues related to global food insecurity and the eradication of hunger in the world.

CLOSING PLENARY: Skills for Service, Shannon Stober, Montana Conservation Corps Program Manager

Shannon is a true National Service junkie who is known to suffer from chronic enthusiasm. Her experience with AmeriCorps in Montana includes two VISTA service terms, employment in the Governor's Office of Community Service as the statewide Training Officer, and a run with the Montana Campus Compact as the Campus Corps Program Director. A native of Colorado, she graduated from Fort Lewis College in 2002 with a BA in Sociology. Shannon can most often be found singing a song and looking for trouble with her big mutt Monty.

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP IN YOUTH

Presenter: Lee Gault / Montana Conservation Corps

Lee has been with MCC since 1995 and has served as Program Director since 1998. Prior to joining MCC, Lee spent 10 years with the Colorado and North Carolina Outward Bound Schools. He has also served as a wilderness therapist, classroom teacher; and counselor. He holds master's degrees in Experiential Education and Counseling. Lee, his wife Teresa, and daughter Sadie live in Bozeman.

PROMOTING HEALTHY, ACTIVE, ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE COMMUNITIES

Presenters: Ken Soderberg, Katie McKeown, Nora Gartner / Montana State Parks AmeriCorps

Ken Soderberg is the Volunteer and Interpretive Services Program Manager for Montana State Parks. Prior to joining State Parks, he was director of a county park system, director of an outdoor education facility, and a park ranger.

Katie McKeown has been the Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Program Specialist since the program began 2.5 years ago. Before then, she worked for a criminal justice non-profit in Helena and served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Montana Conservation Corps in Bozeman.

This is **Nora Gartner's** 2nd service term with AmeriCorps. She served in a 900-hour term in 2012. Since 2010, Nora has finished her bachelor's degree in Recreation Resource Management at the University of Montana in Missoula.

ENSURING LOW-INCOME MONTANANS HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Presenters: Casey Stephenson, Kyle Nettleblad, Larken Yackulic / Justice for Montanans

Casey Stephenson is the AmeriCorps coordinator for the Justice for Montanans AmeriCorps Program. Previously she was an AmeriCorps member and team leader with Montana State Parks where she worked on education and volunteer management projects. She was also an AmeriCorps member in New Mexico with EcoServants where she performed trail maintenance, community outreach, and was a wilderness camp counselor.

Kyle Nettleblad is a second-year AmeriCorps service member with the Justice for Montanans Project at the Cascade County Self Help Law Center in Great Falls. After his second term he will be attending law school, though he still making up his mind about where he will be attending. He hopes to continue working in public service after law school, ideally as a public defender.

CONNECTING KIDS TO REAL FOOD

Presenter: Kirsten Gerbatsch / Montana FoodCorps

Kirsten grew up in New Jersey, and her passion for food and sustainable agriculture took root during her studies at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. She graduated in 2011 as a History major and then served two terms as a FoodCorps AmeriCorps member in northern Michigan prior to joining the FoodCorps Montana team where she now supports 10 service members across the state.

WORKING TO PROTECT MONTANA'S WATERSHEDS

Presenters: Bryan Wilson, Ethan Kunard / Big Sky Watershed Corps

Bryan Wilson is in his third year as the Program Coordinator for the Big Sky Watershed Corps. He dislikes speaker bios and enjoys fishing.

Ethan Kunard was born and raised in a small Kansas town. After attending Kansas State University for two years, he transferred to the University of Montana where he graduated with a B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation, with a minor in Wilderness Studies. Ethan returned to the Big Sky Watershed Corps for a second term because he loves working with local communities on natural resource conservation and education. This program provides excellent opportunities to build capacity for host site organizations, while also enhancing professional development skills for members. In his second term, Ethan hopes to expand upon the work he accomplished last year, while also helping fellow members to navigate successfully through their term.

THE COURAGE TO SERVE: RECOGNIZING MONTANA'S VETERANS

Presenters: Jack Barry, Gary Bladen / Area VI RSVP

Jack Barry recently returned to Montana to retire after a period of time as a business owner in California. He is a Viet Nam Veteran with a passion for all who serve. He is on a mission to give back to a community that he loves.

Gary Bladen just retired in February after 39 years with the National Institutes Health. He was a scout leader for many years when his son was younger, but now he is exploring lots of new opportunities for volunteering in the community. Military history has always been a special interest.

COLLABORATION: IT'S ALL ABOUT NETWORKING

Presenter: Sherlee Santomo / Area VI RSVP

After a long career selling, designing or installing and training business phone systems Sherlee came to RSVP just 8 months ago as the Volunteer Coordinator for Lake County and the Flathead Reservation. She has a long history of community involvement through years of volunteerism, successful fundraising, and working with non-profits at many community venues.

THE POWER AND PASSION OF RECYCLING

Presenters: Chip Britting, Tracy Dickerson / Ravalli County Recycling, Corvallis High School

Chip Britting retired from the Forest Service where he acted as operations manager for recycling in Oregon and the Bitterroot. He helped establish programs for Fire Camp recycling and now brings his expertise and volunteers with a new county recycling program.

Tracy Dickerson has been a science teacher for over 10 years at Corvallis H.S. Her personal commitment to recycling inspired her Ecology class to start a recycling program for the school.

CARING FOR AN AGEING POPULATION

Presenters: Mary Jo Berry, Linda Zimmer, Derry Kempf / Area VI RSVP

Mary Jo Berry grew up in Fort Peck Montana. Moved to Superior 19 years ago. Worked at Mineral Community Hospital for 9 years and later was self employed. Has been RSVP Coordinator for Mineral County for 4 years and DAV Coordinator for 2 years. Believes in giving back to the community and works with Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, Mineral County Performing Arts, Local Emergency Planning, Mineral County Pioneer Council.

Linda Zimmer retired after teaching primary grades at Superior Elementary for 28 years. Has volunteered with delivering meals, Reading at ALF, Hospice, Campfire, and with her Church. Believes you should: "Follow your heart and your passion with enthusiasm...Then everyday is an adventure to be discovered and enjoyed with new and returning characters!"

Derry Kempf had a varied career in the business world. He was the RSVP volunteer coordinator for Ravalli County for many years. At age 80, he devotes his time to helping people in any way he can. His outgoing personality is a joy to all who meet him, including the many hospice and homebound clients whom he visits.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH BUSINESS

Presenters: Robert Nystuen / Glacier Bank Market President, Montana Commission on Community Service

Bob Nystuen has been a community banker for 39 years and is currently Market President of Glacier Bank in Kalispell, MT. He is a Commissioner on the Montana Commission on Community Service. Bob is on the Board of Directors of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, Montana ambassadors, and the Glacier National Park Conservation. Bob is the Board Chair of the Board of Trustees of Flathead Valley Community College.

TACKLING CHILDHOOD HUNGER THROUGH COLLABORATION AND SERVICE

Presenters: Lisa Lee, Jessi Sheava / MT No Kid Hungry, VISTA

Lisa Lee is the Director of Montana No Kid Hungry, co-chair of the Montana Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, and serves on the Helena Food Share board. As a Registered Dietitian with a Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition and a Major in Dietetics, Lisa has found her passion in community dietetics and dedicates her time towards ending child hunger in Montana. As a mother of a 2 year old, she strongly believes that all children should get the healthy food they need, every day. Previously, Lisa worked for the Montana Child and Adult Care Food Program to establish healthy eating habits at an early age. Before moving to Montana, Lisa worked as Sodexo District Manager in Vancouver, Canada which involved overseeing food and nutrition services for 14 hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Jessi Sheava currently serves as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the Montana No Kid Hungry Campaign under the Prevention Resource Center. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Health from Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon. She is passionate about children's health and enjoys working with organizations statewide to ensure that children are healthy and happy as they develop.

BUILDING CAMPUS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Presenters: Jon Stephani, Brian Christianson / MT Campus Compact

Jon Stephani is a Montana native, who earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Montana Western. After graduation he served two terms of service as an AmeriCorps Campus Corps Leader at Montana Western. He currently works as the Training Specialist for the Montana Campus Compact.

Brian Christianson manages the MTCC VISTA project, MTCC's anti-poverty program which utilizes campus community partnerships to forward community-owned solutions to Montana's most pressing needs. Brian is a native of Minnesota, and graduate of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Prior to his work as a staff member with MTCC, Brian served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA (in Sand Coulee, MT) and VISTA leader (with MTCC).

IMPROVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR LOW-INCOME MONTANANS

Presenters: Brittany Waiss, Margy Dorr, Emma Young / Montana Legal Services Association AmeriCorps VISTA

Brittany Waiss is the AmeriCorps Coordinator for the Montana Legal Services Association AmeriCorps VISTA Project. Born and raised in Montana she is passionate about being involved in activities that help better the state. When not helping to guide the efforts of the project's members and supervisors, she enjoys spending time skiing, hiking, and exploring Montana with her family.

Margy Dorr is from Sonoma County, California and graduated with her degree in English from Cal State University, Hayward. She is serving with Western Sustainability Exchange in Livingston where she is developing the curriculum for the Young Entrepreneur Stewardship (YES) program. Margy is passionate about preserving and exploring the beauty and open spaces of Montana, which is what inspired her move here in the first place. She enjoys hiking, backpacking, camping, baking, reading and playing with her two dogs in her free time.

Emma Young is serving with the Montana Community Development Corporation in Missoula. Emma grew up in western Montana, attended the University of Montana in Missoula, and received a graduate degree in International Law from the University of Edinburgh. For her project, Emma is developing and launching a payday loan alternative program that builds financial literacy and financial stability for low- to moderate-income Montanans.

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN MONTANA

Presenters: Rachael Bramblett, Michael Daniel, Kaleena Miller, Eileen Munsch, Kelli Roemer / Energy Corps

Rachael Bramblett graduated from Appalachian State University in the Spring of 2013 with a Bachelors of Science in Appropriate Technology. She has worked with her co-worker Eileen to install 192 light weatherization kits along with educating approximately 200 people on renewable energy and energy efficiency topics. She plans continue educating the community on renewable energy and energy efficiency topics for the rest of her term along with helping to organize some additional service days and classroom events. Once her Energy Corps term of service is over she plans to participate in AmeriCorps for another year.

Michael Daniel has a bachelor's degree in appropriate technology from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. He has experience in building greenhouses and working at a wind power demonstration site on Beech Mountain, NC. During his Energy Corps term, Mike has developed a Biochar Retort Kiln on the demonstration farm at NCAT. In addition to building the kiln, Mike has provided renewable energy presentations to schools and community groups in Butte.

Kaleena Miller is a New York native who grew up with a passion for sports and spending as much time outdoors as possible. She has a B.S. in Environmental Economics from the University of Rhode Island and a M.S. in Environmental Policy from Bard College in New York. Kaleena joined the Energy Corps Program as a member in 2011 because she saw it as an opportunity to apply her knowledge of energy issues while at the same time gaining valuable skills in the energy field. She became a member of the Energy Corps staff in the fall of 2012.

Eileen Munsch graduated from the State University of New York at Geneseo in May of 2010. Since then, Eileen has volunteered and worked for eight different non-profits and various government and state agencies in the areas of disaster relief, environmental conservation and stewardship, energy conservation, infrastructure improvement, and neighborhood revitalization. Thus far, she and her co-worker, Rachael Bramblett, have installed starter weatherization kits in 192 homes across southwest Montana, and presented information on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to approximately 200 Montanans. She looks forward to the last few months of her service term in which she will be focusing her energy on presenting to schools and community groups and collaborating with fellow Energy Corps members, AmeriCorps members, and local community groups to plan activities for Mayor's Day of Recognition and Earth Day.

Kelli Roemer graduated from the University of Montana in 2012 with a B.S. in Resource Conservation. Kelli is working with Lewis and Clark County in Helena, MT. She coordinates the L&C Green Team and social media and outreach strategies for the Tri-County Green Business Program. Assists local businesses in advancing their energy efficiency efforts and organizes outreach events such as "Green Drinks Helena."

SPARKING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SERVICE

Presenter: Heather Margolis / ServiceNation, MT Education Partnership

Heather Margolis has nearly two decades of experience working in the field of education and national service and is the Montana AmeriCorps Alums Co-Chair. She is also the Executive Director of Montana Education Partnership a non-profit organization that strives to builds students' confidence, sparks their intellectual curiosity, and fosters strong community connections through academic and civic engagement.

In addition, Heather also works with ServiceNation representing Montana, advocating for expansion of national service programs. Heather is an undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado Boulder and her Masters Degree in Education from New York University's Steinhardt School of Education

MAKING VOLUNTEERS WORK FOR YOU

Presenter: Brian Johnson / United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area

Brian Johnson, Executive Director of United Way, has worked in the Helena nonprofit sector for 5 years. He knows how to fish.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILANTHROPY

Presenter: Theresa Bushman, Erica Aytes Coyle / Montana Conservation Corps, Haven

Theresa Bushman joined the Montana Conservation Corps in 2010. Theresa has been working in development and fundraising for 15 years for organizations like the Trust for Public Land, Montana State University, and NOLS. Theresa is a native of Montana, originally from Billings. She graduated from Montana State University and enjoys living in Bozeman.

Erica Aytes Coyle joined the staff of HAVEN in June 2012 after working in development at the Museum of the Rockies and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County. She graduated from MSU with her bachelor's degree in English Literature and Spanish, and her Master's in Public Administration. She is always open to discussing the effects of domestic violence on communities and hopes the Gallatin Valley will continue to come together to support victims of domestic violence.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Presenters: Kim Spurzem, Colin Corbett / NCBI Missoula

Kim Spurzem is the Youth Development Specialist at NCBI Missoula. Ms. Spurzem attended the University of Montana where she received her degree in Social Work. Over the past few years she has focused her work on positive youth development, youth and adult partnerships, and empowering youth to be engaged citizens in their communities. Her passion for safer communities began when she was in high school and worked as part of a coalition in adopting Montana's first enumerated anti-bullying school policy. Though her work with NCBI Missoula Ms. Spurzem has trained thousands of students, educators, and community members on developing the skills necessary for building safer and more inclusive schools and communities.

Colin Corbett is a Helena native and Missoula resident. He studied physics at the University of Montana and currently works with a biology professor there, aiding in the design and construction of robotic, taxidermied birds, used for researching animal alarm calls. Colin grew up in a household where disability had a heavy impact on the lives of his family and as such, he is passionate about raising awareness around the issues and discrimination that people living with disabilities face. He has been providing technical assistance for NCBI, and acting as the musical entertainment for their yearly fund raiser since 2010.

A BETTER WAY WITH WORDS: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS ON A BUDGET

Presenter: Jill Alban / Clark Fork Coalition

Jill Alban directs outreach programming for the Clark Fork Coalition, a conservation nonprofit based in Missoula, Montana. She has 10+ years experience in public relations, strategic communications planning, and social media outreach. At the Coalition, Jill manages communications, educational programming, corporate fundraising, and more. She serves on the board of directors for the Clark Fork River Market, is a member of the Missoula Climate Action Task Force, and blogs about watershed conservation at clarkfork.org.

BEING CIVICALLY ENGAGED: A PANEL ON KEY DECISIONS AND THEIR DECISION-MAKERS

Presenters: Christina Barsky / Strategies 360
Dan Ellison / Helena City Commissioner
Jenny Eck / State Representative
Shannon Lewis / Senator Tester Staffer

Christina Barsky brings diverse strategic communications, financial services, community, and economic development experience to the Helena, Montana office where she serves as a Senior Account Manager for Strategies 360 Montana. Previously, Christina worked with Rural Dynamics, Incorporated, first as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and later as the Director of the Northern Plains Initiative and Assistant Director of Asset Development. In these roles she developed comprehensive program delivery models that provided increased access for rural and Native communities to basic financial services as well as innovative alternative financial products. Christina also worked to ensure I-164, which established consumer protections to regulate payday and title lenders, was passed by Montana voters.

Dan Ellison grew up on cattle ranches in western Montana, and attended grade and high school in Montana's Bitterroot Valley. He graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and following flight school was awarded pilot's wings in Pensacola, Florida. While on active duty he completed Master's Degrees in Human Resource management from Pepperdine University, and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is a highly decorated Navy pilot whose deployments took him to Southeast Asia, the western Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and Antarctica, where he met his future spouse, Jane Fournier. His shore duty assignments included flight instructor, helicopter search and rescue in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, operations analysis at the U.S. Space Command, speechwriting for senior Defense Department officials, and serving for two years as Legislative Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Following naval service, Dan moved to Wyoming and worked as a Business Manager for the Forest Service. Returning to Montana in 1999, he served as a Division Administrator at the Department of Revenue, and as Chief of Administration and Finance at Fish, Wildlife, and Parks retiring in 2005. Over the years he has served on boards and committees for service, non-profit, and conservation organizations in the Helena community including Trout Unlimited (Life Member), the Helena Independent Record Editorial Board, Commissioner on the Helena Regional Airport Authority and as Board Chair, the Montana Business Assistance Connection Executive Committee, the Last Chance Audubon Society, and as a volunteer with the Montana Wildlife Center. Dan is also a Life Member of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society and his name is inscribed on the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Wall of Honor. He is an avid fly fisherman and amateur wildlife photographer and is a strong supporter of natural resource conservation. In 2009 he was elected to the Helena City Commission, and was re-elected to a second term in 2013.

Shannon Lewis representing **Senator Jon Tester**, a third-generation Montana farmer, a proud husband, father and grandfather. Jon is a life-long resident of Big Sandy, where he worked as a teacher before he and his wife took over the family farm. Jon's strong desire to give back to his community led him to run for school board three decades ago and to run for the Montana State Senate in 1998. And Jon knows that in a big, rural state like Montana, service organizations play an even greater role in improving lives and strengthening communities. When Jon was first elected to the United States Senate in 2006, he joined the National Service Congressional Caucus to have a greater say on issues that affect service groups in Montana and across the country. Jon has repeatedly worked across the aisle to make sure that groups like the United Way and AmeriCorps get the support they need. And as Congress has worked to cut spending and reduce the deficit, Jon has fought attacks by the House of Representatives to eliminate funding for AmeriCorps. Jon believes Washington needs to do more balance its books, but not by gutting cost-effective initiatives that make a real, positive impact on the ground. Jon believes that giving back to your neighbors and your community is a Montana value — a value that he learned from his parents and one he passes on to his kids, grandkids and the Montanans he serves.

Representative Jenny Eck, a freshman Representative from Montana, approached her first session with safer communities, mental health and consumer protection as her priorities. During the 2013 session, Rep. Eck served on the House Judiciary and Natural Resources committee. During her first session, she successfully sponsored and passed five pieces of legislation, including a bill to protect consumers from off shore predatory lenders and another giving prosecutors the ability to better evaluate and classify sex predators. Her study bill, HJR 16 ("An Interim Study of State-Operated Public Institutions Serving Individuals with Mental Illness, Intellectual Disabilities, and Chemical Dependency") has been adopted by the Children and Family Services Interim Committee. Prior to being elected to the 63rd Legislature, Rep. Eck worked as a consumer protection advocate at the Montana Attorney General's Office where she had the opportunity to travel across Montana educating seniors, high school students, and community groups on avoiding scams and financial predation. Talking to her constituents and listening to their opinions and perspectives is very important to Rep. Eck. This experience gives her an understanding of what Montana families need, and the skills to find solutions. Rep. Eck received her degree in Government from Smith College in Northampton, MA. She first came to Montana as a part of an exchange at the University of Montana and fell in love with our great state. Her love for Montana drives her to work to build a better state for the next generation. Rep. Eck and her husband, Brian Miller, are the proud parents of two elementary-aged children. Rep. Eck was a VISTA volunteer working at the Poverello Center in Missoula in 2005. Rep. Eck is the program manager for Carol's List, an organization working to elect progressive women to the Montana Legislature. She is also a board member with the Montana Financial Education Coalition as well as the Lewis and Clark County United Way. She also serves as a co-chair to the Montana Democratic Coordinated Campaign Steering Committee.